

Appln. No. 10/665,681  
Amendment dated August 12, 2005  
Reply to Office Action mailed May 12, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims** (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An emergency ladder~~ A system comprising:  
a building having multiple floors;  
a compartment adjacent to said building;  
an extendable ladder positioned inside said compartment;  
a door covering said compartment;  
an alarm assembly including a sensor inside said building for detecting a fire; and  
said alarm system being operationally coupled to said door and said ladder to open said door and extend said ladder when fire is detected by said sensor;  
wherein said extendable ladder is extendable in an upward direction from the compartment toward the building.
2. (Currently Amended) The ~~emergency ladder~~ system of claim 1 further comprising:  
an alarm bell operationally coupled to said alarm assembly to give an audio warning when said door is open.
3. (Currently Amended) The ~~emergency ladder~~ system of claim 2, wherein said alarm bell is positioned in said compartment.
4. (Currently Amended) The ~~emergency ladder~~ system of claim 1 wherein said door includes a caution light that illuminates when said door is opened to expose the compartment.

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5. (Currently Amended) The ~~emergency ladder~~ system of claim 1 wherein said alarm assembly includes at least one of a smoke sensor and a heat sensor.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~emergency ladder~~ system of claim 1 wherein said alarm assembly includes both a smoke sensor and a heat sensor for activating said system upon one of said smoke sensor detecting smoke in excess of a pre-determined level and said heat sensor detecting heat above a pre-determined level.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~emergency ladder~~ system of claim 1 wherein said ladder is positioned to extend towards an opening into a floor level of said building above a first floor level.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~emergency ladder~~ system of claim 1, further comprising:  
a hand rail coupled to said ladder.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~emergency ladder~~ system of claim 1, further comprising:  
a support pole extendably coupled to said ladder such that said support pole extends out from said ladder to brace said ladder when said ladder is in an extended position.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~emergency ladder~~ system of claim 1 wherein said alarm assembly and said ladder are powered by a direct connection to a power line separate from a power line for said building to prevent failure of said ladder and alarm assembly when power is cut to said building.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~emergency ladder~~ system of claim 1 ~~wherein comprising multiple ladders and multiple compartments are employed~~, each ladder being positioned to extend from a respective

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~~compartment~~ one of said multiple compartments to a unique opening into said building to provide multiple escape routes from said building.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~emergency ladder~~ system of claim 1 wherein multiple ladders are positioned within a single said compartment, each ladder being positioned to extend to a unique opening into said building to provide multiple escape routes from said building.

13. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein said door opens upwardly with respect to said compartment.

14. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein said building has an opening permitting egress from said building, and said compartment is positioned at a relatively lower vertical level with respect to a vertical height of said opening in said building.

15. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein said compartment is spaced from a side of said building.

16. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein said compartment is embedded in a ground surface adjacent to said building.

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17. (New) An emergency ladder system comprising:  
a compartment for positioning in the ground adjacent to a building,  
the compartment having an upper opening into an interior of said  
compartment;  
a door covering said upper opening in said compartment;  
an extendable ladder positioned in said interior of said compartment,  
said extendable ladder being extendable in an upward direction from the  
compartment through said upper opening from said interior for extending  
toward the building; and  
an alarm assembly including a sensor for positioning inside the  
building for detecting a fire in the building;  
wherein said alarm system is operationally coupled to said door and  
said ladder to open said door and extend said ladder when fire is detected by  
said sensor.

18. (New) The emergency ladder system of claim 17 wherein said  
door opens upwardly with respect to said compartment.